

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

-v-

WILLIAM KNOX,

Defendant.

15 Cr. 445 (PAE)


ORDER

PAUL A. ENGELMAYER, District Judge:

The Court has received the Government’s response to the application for compassionate release filed on behalf of defendant William Knox. Dkt. 1077. The Court is considering both parties’ submissions. The Court is respectful of the Government’s substantial legal argument that Knox has not exhausted his administratively remedies because 30 days have not elapsed since Mr. Knox’s application was first filed on March 23, 2020. Nevertheless, given the patent imperative of prompt action on this application due to the dangers posed to Mr. Knox by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court is disquieted by the failure of the Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) to indicate when it intends to reach a decision. The Court—which has deep familiarity with Knox’s case, having presided over his trial and sentencing—has given the BOP clear guidance on this issue, on which the Court submits that reasonable minds cannot differ. The Court reminds the BOP that the cost of needless tarrying over such applications could be measured in human lives. The Court directs the Government to file, by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2020, a sworn declaration from a responsible officer of the BOP setting forth a firm date by which the BOP will reach this decision. In an order filed March 27, 2020, the Court directed the BOP “to determine how Mr. Knox will serve his last seven months in custody forthwith, and, in any event, within

the next 14 days”—*i.e.*, by April 10, 2020. Dkt. 1075. The Court expects the BOP to be able to commit to a final resolution of Mr. Knox’s application by, at the outside, Friday, April 10, 2020.

SO ORDERED.

  
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PAUL A. ENGELMAYER  
United States District Judge

Dated: April 2, 2020  
New York, New York